

# BUREAU OF WATER

South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control

## SHELLFISH MANAGEMENT AREA 01

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### 2006 ANNUAL UPDATE

#### Shellfish Sanitation Program

Water Monitoring, Assessment and Protection Division  
Environmental Quality Control - Bureau of Water  
2600 Bull Street  
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

July 2006



#### WEB ADDRESS:

<http://www.scdhec.net/water/html/shellfish.html#reports>

# 2006 ANNUAL UPDATE

[ Data Through December 2005 ]

## Shellfish Management Area 01 Shellfish Sanitation Program



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A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'David G. Baize', is positioned above a horizontal line.

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**2005 ANNUAL UPDATE**  
**Shellfish Management Area 01**  
**SCDHEC EQC Bureau of Water**

**Data Inclusive Dates:**

01 / 01 / 03 thru 12 / 31 / 05

**Classification Change:**

     Yes   X   No

**Shoreline Survey Completed:**   Yes  

**(I)ncreased/(D)ecreased/(N)one:**

  N   Approved

  N   Cond. Approved

  N   Restricted

  N   Prohibited

**Prior Report & Date:** 2005 Annual Update

**SUMMARY**

Rapid development continues to occur within Shellfish Management Area 01. Development activities and increases in human populations appear to be non-conducive to acceptable shellfish water quality. Although current regulations establish no upper limit for Restricted waters, the AIWW portion of Area 01 will retain the current Prohibited classification due to the large number of marinas throughout the area.

The 2005 data review indicates three stations having slight improvements in water quality while the remaining six stations exhibit slight declines in water quality. Stations 02, 07, and 19 showed slight reduction in fecal coliform values over the past year. Stations 01,05,06,17,17A, and 18, all showed slight to moderate increases in fecal coliform values in 2005. These results are not inconsistent with prior review period data. Increased development and unpredictable nonpoint source pollution events indicate that the current Restricted classification is appropriate for these growing areas.

**INTRODUCTION**

**PURPOSE AND SCOPE**

The authority to regulate the harvest, sanitation, processing and handling of shellfish is granted to the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control by Section 44-1-140 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976, as amended. The Department promulgated Regulation 61-47 which provides the rules used to implement this authority and outlines the requirements applied in regulating shellfish sanitation in the State. This regulation specifically addresses classification of shellfish harvesting areas and requires that all areas be examined by sanitary and bacteriological surveys and classified into an appropriate shellfish harvesting classification.

The National Shellfish Sanitation Program(NSSP)Guide For The Control Of Molluscan Shellfish is used by the United States Food and Drug Administration (USFDA) to evaluate state shellfish sanitation programs. The NSSP Model Ordinance requires that a sanitary survey be in place for each growing area prior to its use as a source of shellfish for human consumption and prior

to the area's classification as Approved, Conditionally Approved, Restricted, or Conditionally Restricted. Each sanitary survey shall be updated on an annual basis and accurately reflect changes which have occurred within the area. Requirement of the annual reevaluation include, at a minimum, field observations of pollution sources, an analysis of water quality data consisting of the past year's data in combination with appropriate previously collected data, review of reports and effluent samples from pollution sources, and review of performance standards for discharges impacting the growing area. A brief report documenting the findings shall also be provided.

The following criteria consistent with the NSSP Model Ordinance and S.C. Regulation 61-47 are used in establishing shellfish harvesting classifications:

**Approved** - Growing areas shall be classified Approved when the sanitary survey concludes that fecal material, pathogenic microorganisms, and poisonous or deleterious substances are not present in concentrations which would render shellfish unsafe for human consumption. The Approved area classification shall be designated based upon a sanitary survey that includes water samples collected from stations in the designated area adjacent to actual or potential sources of pollution. For waters sampled under adverse pollution conditions, the median fecal coliform Most Probable Number (MPN) or the geometric mean MPN shall not exceed fourteen per one hundred milliliters, and not more than ten percent of the samples shall exceed a fecal coliform MPN of forty-three per one hundred milliliters (per five tube decimal dilution). For waters sampled under a systematic random sampling plan, the geometric mean fecal coliform Most Probable Number (MPN) shall not exceed fourteen per one hundred milliliters, and the estimated ninetieth percentile shall not exceed an MPN of forty three (per five tube decimal dilution). Computation of the estimated ninetieth percentile shall be obtained using NSSP Guidelines.

**Conditionally Approved** - Growing areas may be classified Conditionally Approved when they are subject to temporary conditions of actual or potential pollution. When such events are predictable, as in the malfunction of wastewater treatment facilities, non-point source pollution from rainfall runoff, discharge of a major river, or potential discharges from dock or harbor facilities that may affect water quality, a management plan describing conditions under which harvesting will be allowed shall be adopted by the Department prior to classifying an area as Conditionally Approved. Where appropriate, the management plan for each Conditionally Approved area shall include performance standards for sources of controllable pollution, e.g., wastewater treatment and collection systems, evaluation of each source of pollution, and means of rapidly closing and subsequent reopening areas to shellfish harvesting. Memorandums of agreements shall be a part of these management plans where appropriate.

**Restricted** - Growing areas shall be classified Restricted when sanitary survey data show a limited degree of pollution or the presence of deleterious or poisonous substances to a degree which may cause the water quality to fluctuate unpredictably or at such a frequency that a Conditionally Approved classification is not feasible. Shellfish may be harvested from areas classified as Restricted only for the purposes of relaying or depuration and only by special permit issued by the Department and under Department supervision. For Restricted areas to be utilized as a source of shellstock for depuration, or as source water for depuration, the fecal coliform geometric mean MPN of restricted waters sampled under adverse pollution conditions shall not exceed eighty-eight per one hundred milliliters and not more than ten percent of the samples shall exceed a MPN of two hundred and sixty per one hundred milliliters for a five tube decimal dilution test. For waters sampled under a systematic random sampling plan, the fecal coliform geometric mean MPN shall

not exceed eighty-eight per one hundred milliliters and the estimated ninetieth percentile shall not exceed an MPN of two hundred and sixty (five tube decimal dilution). Computation of the estimated ninetieth percentile shall be obtained using NSSP guidelines.

**Conditionally Restricted** - Growing areas may be classified Conditionally Restricted when they are subject to temporary conditions of actual or potential pollution. When such events are predictable, as in the malfunction of wastewater treatment facilities, non-point source pollution from rainfall runoff, discharge of a major river, or potential discharges from dock or harbor facilities that may affect water quality, a management plan describing conditions under which harvesting will be allowed shall be prepared by the Department prior to classifying an area as Conditionally Restricted. Where appropriate, the management plan for each Conditionally Restricted area shall include performance standards for sources of controllable pollution (e.g., wastewater treatment and collection systems and an evaluation of each source of pollution) and description of the means of rapidly closing and subsequent reopening areas to shellfish harvesting. Memorandums of agreements shall be a part of these management plans where appropriate. Shellfish may be harvested from areas classified as Conditionally Restricted only for the purposes of relaying or depuration and only by permit issued by the Department and under Department supervision. For Conditionally Restricted areas to be utilized as a source of shellstock for depuration, the fecal coliform geometric mean MPN of Conditionally Restricted waters sampled under adverse pollution conditions shall not exceed eighty-eight per one hundred milliliters and not more than ten percent of the samples shall exceed a MPN of two hundred and sixty per one hundred milliliters for a five tube decimal dilution test. For waters sampled under a systematic random sampling plan, the fecal coliform geometric mean MPN shall not exceed eighty-eight per one hundred milliliters and the estimated ninetieth percentile shall not exceed an MPN of two hundred and sixty (five tube decimal dilution). Computation of the estimated ninetieth percentile shall be obtained using NSSP guidelines.

**Prohibited** - Growing areas are classified Prohibited if there is no current sanitary survey or if the sanitary survey or monitoring data show unsafe levels of fecal material, pathogenic microorganisms, or poisonous or deleterious substances in the growing area or indicate that such substances could potentially reach quantities which could render shellfish unfit or unsafe for human consumption.

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Area 01 consists of approximately 3289 acres of shellfish growing area habitat located in Horry County, South Carolina. It is comprised of estuarine portions of Little River, Little River Inlet, Dunn Sound, Hog Inlet, Milliken Cove, and the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway (AIWW). The area is bounded to the east by the North Carolina-South Carolina state line, on the west by Sea Mountain Highway and portions of the AIWW southwest of the U. S. Highway 17 bridge traversing the AIWW, and on the south by Cherry Grove Beach, Waites Island, and the Atlantic Ocean. Approximately seven nautical miles of AIWW shoreline define the northern boundary.

The harvesting classifications of Area 01 prior to this sanitary survey were as follows:

Prohibited - AIWW from Highway 9 to the North Carolina border & Little River Estuary from Tilghman's Point to the AIWW (1146 acres)

Restricted - Little River Estuary seaward of Tilghman's Point, including all portions of Dunn Sound & Hog Inlet (2143 acres)

The shellfish industry in South Carolina is based on primarily on the harvest of the eastern oyster (*Crassostrea virginica*) and hard clams, which include both the northern clam (*Mercenaria mercenaria*) and several small populations of the southern clam (*Mercenaria campechiensis*). The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control currently disallows harvesting of oysters and clams within Area 01 for direct marketing purposes; however, Hog Inlet, Dunn Sound, and Little River Inlet are suitable as a source of shellfish for indirect marketing through the use of depuration (controlled purification) and/or relaying (transplanting) activities. No commercial shellfish relay projects were permitted during the review period.

Shellfish harvesting season in South Carolina normally extends from September 16 through May 14. The South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) has the authority to alter the shellfish-harvesting season for resource management purposes and grant permits for year-round mariculture operations. Additionally, the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control has the authority to prohibit shellfish harvesting when necessary to ensure that shellfish harvested in South Carolina waters are safe for human consumption.

## **POLLUTION SOURCE SURVEY**

### **SURVEY PROCEDURES**

Shoreline surveys of Area 01 were conducted by the Waccamaw District Shellfish Sanitation staff, by watercraft, vehicle and on foot, during the survey period and are ongoing. Extensive visual examination of lands adjacent to the waters of Area 01 was conducted to determine potential sources of pollution entering shellfish growing waters.

### **POINT SOURCE POLLUTION**

- A. Municipal and Community Waste Treatment Facilities** - The City of North Myrtle Beach operates two wastewater facilities with permitted discharges to the AIWW at separate locations adjacent to the southern reaches of Area 01. These facilities are typically operated efficiently and within National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit limitations. Additionally, Grand Strand Water and Sewer Authority's Vereen Wastewater Treatment Plant discharges to the AIWW. Although these discharges contribute to pollution loading within the freshwater portions of the AIWW, the discharges to the AIWW are seven miles from the closest viable shellfish (subtidal clams) populations and therefore have no adverse impact upon restricted shellfish beds. Figure 3 indicates WWTP discharge locations within Area 01.
- B. Industrial Waste** - There are no permitted industrial discharges within Shellfish Management Area 01.
- C. Marinas** - Numerous marinas and multiple docking facilities, providing anchorage for commercial and recreational water craft, are located along the AIWW portion of Area 01. This portion of Area 01 is administratively Prohibited in its entirety. No individual marina

closure zone calculations have been conducted. Locations of these facilities are indicated in Figure 3. Table 5 summarizes services provided by these facilities.

- D. Radionuclides** - Sources of radionuclides have not been identified within Area 01, and radionuclide monitoring has not been conducted. No poisonous or deleterious substances have been documented. No poisonous or deleterious substances have been identified within the area.

## **NONPOINT SOURCE POLLUTION**

- A. Urban and Suburban Stormwater Runoff** - Nonpoint source runoff is a substantial problem in Area 01 due to increasing development. This development is not confined to lands immediately adjacent to shellfish growing areas but also includes lands adjacent to the AIWW southwest of Area 01, as well portions of North Carolina adjacent to Calabash Creek and surrounding areas. An existing network of dead-end finger canals in the Cherry Grove section of Area 01 is the recipient of the majority of drainage from streets and paved surface areas. Finger canals typically exhibit poor flushing action. This has contributed to sediment accretion within the canals. Additionally, tidal flooding in portions of Cherry Grove is a common occurrence due to spring tides and storm systems. Permitted storm water sites for land disturbance activities are indicated on the map of potential pollution sources.

The lands surrounding shellfish growing waters in Area 01 consist of various soil types and conditions. These have been defined by the United States Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service (1986) utilizing general classifications and descriptions. Although lands within Area 01 consist of numerous soil types, the area is generally comprised of Lakeland-Leon-Newhan soils, nearly level and gently sloping soils that have a sandy or loamy subsoil. The United States Department of Agriculture (1986) further describes these soils as "excessively drained and poorly drained soils that are sandy throughout: in drainage ways, on broad ridges and slopes, and on dunes."

There are no approved solid waste landfills located within close proximity to Area 01 shellfish growing waters, however several unpermitted trash dumps have been found in the Little River Neck area adjacent to the AIWW.

- B. Agricultural Runoff** - There are no major commercial farming activities occurring on a large scale adjacent to Area 01 waters. Fertilizer, pesticide, and herbicide usage is limited primarily to residential lawn maintenance and golf courses. Several golf courses are located throughout the area and contribute to nonpoint source pollution loading.
- C. Individual Sewage Treatment and Disposal (ISTD) Systems** - Interviews with SCDHEC Bureau of Environmental Health personnel indicate that large portions of the Little River Neck and residences bordering the AIWW are serviced by ISDT systems. Soils are suitable for installation and efficient operation of ISDT systems; however, they are being phased out in lieu of municipal wastewater collection and treatment facilities. Central treatment systems have less potential for discharge of untreated wastewater although lift station malfunctions occasionally result in spills of untreated wastewater to the environment. Few system malfunctions have been noted within the past several years. North Myrtle Beach provides central collection service within East Cherry Grove.



Several municipal sewage collection system construction projects are currently underway in portions of Cherry Grove located to the northwest of the Hog Inlet estuary, northeast of Sea Mountain Highway. Additionally, the City of North Myrtle Beach is seeking grant approval to sewer the last remaining areas using septic systems on the western side of Cherry Grove / Dunn Sound marshes.

- D. Wildlife and Domestic Animals** - Area 01 supports substantial populations of both wildlife and domestic animals. The Tilghman Estate, consisting of approximately 1800 acres of wooded highlands at the northeastern section of Little River Neck and 500 acres of barrier island environment located on Waites Island, contains wildlife populations typical of the South Carolina coastal plain. The estate supports populations of rabbit, whitetail deer, raccoon, opossum, rodents, songbirds, and migratory waterfowl. Similar populations are located along the banks of the AIWW. Domestic animals are found throughout the area.
- E. Boat Traffic** - Little River Inlet provides ocean access for many recreational and commercial vessels. Additionally, the AIWW comprises a substantial portion of the waters of Area 01. Traffic is heavy except during winter months and is comprised of commercial barges and tugs, shrimpers, charter and head boats, and recreational sail and power boats of various sizes. Due to shallow depths, boat traffic within the Hog Inlet estuary is generally limited to small, shallow draft fishing craft of less than 5 meters in length. Extensive shoaling at the mouth of Hog Inlet greatly hinders navigation.
- F. Hydrographic and Habitat Modification** - Hydrologic and habitat modification in estuarine areas require both State and federal approval. Marina construction and maintenance dredging have been allowed at several locations within Area 01. Sand from the Hog Inlet shoals has been used for beach renourishment along Cherry Grove Beach. Little River Inlet and portions of the AIWW require maintenance dredging. The United States Army Corps of Engineers has designated tracts of land adjacent to the AIWW as dredge spoil sites. Additionally, large portions of Cherry Grove Beach and Hog Inlet have been altered during the past five decades. Cherry Grove Inlet, originally located south of Hog Inlet, was filled during the 1950's. Numerous dead-end canals were constructed in order to maximize land development. Estuarine wetlands were filled to create residential lots. These activities have altered flow patterns throughout Hog Inlet.
- G. Marine Biotoxins** - During the winter and spring of 1988, South Carolina experienced an occurrence of "Red Tide", specifically *Karenia brevis* (formerly *P. brevis*, *G. breve*), which affected water quality in Area 01. There has been no documented reoccurrences of this organism at levels requiring emergency response in South Carolina waters subsequent to the 1988 event. Due to the vast media coverage of events related to *Pfiesteria piscicida*, the Department participates in a State Task Group on Toxic Algae and operates a toxic algae emergency response team.

## HYDROGRAPHICAL AND METEOROLOGICAL CHARACTERISTICS

### PHYSIOGRAPHY

Area 01 is a meso-tidal, bar-built estuary typical of South Carolina's northern coast. The entire system is approximately five nautical miles in length (northeast to southwest) and approximately two nautical miles in width (northwest to southeast). Characteristic of this type of system are ebb and flood tidal deltas and protective point bars which may not be readily apparent at Little River Inlet due to construction of a rubble jetty system. Main channel depths in Little River Inlet are maintained at 10 feet below mean low water (MLW). Main channel depths in the AIWW are maintained at 12 feet below MLW. Depths in the creeks of Dunn Sound and Hog Inlet are not controlled. Sand and mud bars, as well as oyster reefs, are evident during low tides throughout the Little River Inlet-Dunn Sound-Hog Inlet portions of Area 01. Extensive shoaling is evident at the entrance to Hog Inlet.

**Tides** - Tides in Area 01 are semidiurnal, consisting of two low and two high tides occurring each lunar day. Mean tidal ranges during normal tides in Little River estuary vary from 4.0 feet at Nixon's Crossroads to 4.85 feet at the west end of Dunn Sound. Spring tides range from 4.56 feet to 5.58 feet. Mean tidal range in the Hog Inlet estuary is 4.71 feet. Spring tide is 5.46 feet. (Nautical Software Inc.) Wind direction and intensity, as well as atmospheric pressure, typically cause variations in predicted tidal ranges.

**Rainfall** - Historically, obtaining accurate rainfall data within Area 01 has not been possible. Subsequent to the spring of 1997, a precipitation data logger has been operated in the Cherry Grove Beach area. Although several minor malfunctions have occurred, the data logger generally provides effective real time precipitation data measurement. The system undergoes routine maintenance, cleaning and calibration in order to assure proper operation.

**Winds** - Prevailing winds along the northern portion of the South Carolina coast are south during spring and summer and from the north during autumn and winter. Wind speeds are generally less than 15 miles per hour (mph); however, strong weather systems may generate winds in excess of 25 mph. Tropical storms and hurricanes occur occasionally.

**River Discharges** - Portions of Area 01 receive appreciable freshwater inflow from the Waccamaw River via the AIWW (Johnson, 1977). While net flow within the Waccamaw River-AIWW-Little River system is generally northward, tidal forces, flow within the Waccamaw and Pee Dee Rivers, and other hydrographic influences cause variations in flow and salinity within the entire system (Turner, 1989). Additional freshwater input occurs via localized precipitation and resulting runoff. Little River originates in, and receives drainage from, Little River Swamp located on the west side of the AIWW. Calabash Creek receives drainage from portions of Brunswick County, North Carolina.

## **WATER QUALITY STUDIES**

### **DESCRIPTION OF THE PROGRAM**

The Department currently utilizes a systematic random sampling (SRS) strategy within Area 01 in lieu of sampling under adverse pollution conditions. In order to comply with NSSP guidelines, a minimum of thirty samples are required to be collected and analyzed from each station during the review period. Sampling dates are computer generated prior to the beginning of each quarterly period thereby insuring random selection with respect to tidal stage and weather. Day of week selection criteria is limited to Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays due to shipping requirements and laboratory manpower constraints. Sample schedules are rarely altered.

During July 1998, an updated data analysis procedure was formalized. Samples utilized for classification purposes are limited to those samples collected in accordance with the SRS for a 36-month period beginning January 1 and ending December 31. This allows for a maximum of 36 samples per station yet provides a six-sample "cushion" (above the NSSP required 30 minimum) for broken samples, lab error, breakdowns, etc. This also allows each annual report to meet the NSSP Triennial Review sampling criteria.

Three hundred twenty four surface water quality samples (<1.0 ft. deep) were collected for bacteriological analyses and classification purposes from nine active water quality sampling stations in Area 01 during the period 01/01/03 through 12/31/05. The samples were collected in 120 ml amber glass bottles, immediately placed on ice and transported by bus to the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control's Region 7 Environmental Quality Control laboratory at North Charleston, South Carolina. An additional 120 ml water sample was included with each shipment as a temperature control. Upon receipt at the laboratory, sample sets that exceeded a 30-hour holding time or contained a temperature control >10 degrees C. were discarded. Samples collected after September 1, 1986 have been analyzed using the five tube/three dilution modified A-1 method described by Nuefeld (1985).

Surface water temperatures were measured utilizing hand-held, laboratory-quality calibrated centigrade thermometers. Salinity measurements were measured in the laboratory using automatic temperature compensated refractometers. Additional field data include ambient air temperature, wind direction, tidal stage and date and time of sampling. Tidal stages were determined Nautical Software's Tides and Currents, Version 2.2.

### **MONITORING RESULTS**

Stations 02, 05, 06, 17 and 17A exceed a geometric mean most probable number (mpn) value of 14 per 100 ml. Stations. No station exceeds a geometric mean mpn value of 88 per 100 ml. All stations exceed a fecal coliform mpn estimated ninetieth percentile value of 43 per 100 ml. No station exceeds a fecal coliform mpn estimated ninetieth percentile value of 260 per 100 ml.

During 2002, several special source identification samples were collected in Area 01. These samples were analyzed using multiple antibiotic resistance and coliphage identification testing methods to identify the sources of fecal coliform contamination. Additionally, fecal samples (animal) were collected in the study area to use for source correlation and identification. The results

of the sampling did not yield data that pointed to a specific fecal source. These analytical methods are relatively new and need additional development. Future research and development of these and other similar analytical methods may eventually allow conclusive source determination.

## CONCLUSIONS

Data review indicates a variety of factors exerting influences both singularly and in combination to define the water quality and subsequent shellfish harvesting classification of Area 01.

While three wastewater treatment point source discharges are located within relatively close proximity to the southwestern boundary of Area 01, the primary source of elevated fecal coliform bacteria concentrations appears to be of nonpoint source origin. Stormwater runoff from adjacent developed and undeveloped land areas, as well as freshwater input via the Waccamaw River are the major determining influences in Little River Inlet, the AIWW, and Dunn Sound. Freshwater input also occurs from Calabash Creek via drainage from Brunswick County, North Carolina.

Water quality sampling geometric mean values within Hog Inlet are less than those found in other portions of the area; however, the criteria for Approved shellfish harvesting waters are exceeded at all locations. 2001 through 2003 evidenced a reduction in overall rainfall as well as the associated runoff it causes. Even with this reduction, only two sites (01-07 & 01-18) in Cherry Grove did not exceed criteria for Approved status. These locations are at the mouth of Cherry Grove Inlet and are under the direct influence of the Atlantic Ocean. Its close proximity to the Ocean and the reduction in runoff made these sites unique in Area 01. However, the variability of rainfall in the area and the fact that these stations represent a relatively small harvest area, made conditional management of this area impractical. 2005 rainfall data indicated a decrease in precipitation but an overall degradation in water quality was found, including stations 01-07 and 01-18. This supports the decision not to conditionally manage this small area.

Substantial alterations to the physical characteristics of the Inlet over past decades have severely limited flushing. Although salinity values are generally higher in Hog Inlet, some mixing of waters occurs between Hog Inlet and Dunn Sound due to specific hydrographic and meteorological conditions. During high flow conditions in the AIWW, brackish water exiting Little River Inlet may move southeastward and enter Hog Inlet. This results in elevated fecal coliform levels within the estuary. However, bacteriological water quality sample values may, unpredictably, be less than 14/100 ml. Based on review of fecal coliform bacteriological data summaries and the pollution source survey, it is determined that Area 01 is impacted by five sources of actual or potential pollution:

- 1. Freshwater Inflow** - Portions of Area 01 receive appreciable freshwater inflow from the Waccamaw River via the AIWW. Additionally, freshwater input occurs via localized precipitation and resulting runoff. Attempts at determining correlations between specific precipitation amounts and coliform bacteria levels have been inconclusive. Little River originates in, and receives drainage from, Little River Swamp located on the west side of the AIWW. Calabash Creek receives drainage from portions of Brunswick County, North Carolina.

**2. Nonpoint Source Runoff** - Stormwater runoff is a substantial problem in Area 01 due to dense development. This development is not confined to lands immediately adjacent to shellfish growing areas but also includes lands adjacent to the AIWW north and south of Area 01.

**3. Wastewater Treatment Plant Discharges** - There are no municipal or community wastewater treatment facilities which discharge directly to the waters of Area 01 seaward of the SCDNR saltwater-freshwater dividing line; however, the City of North Myrtle Beach operates two wastewater facilities with permitted discharges to the AIWW at separate locations in the southern reach of Area 01. Additionally, Grand Strand Water and Sewer Authority's Vereen Wastewater Treatment also discharges directly to the AIWW in the vicinity of the southern-most North Myrtle Beach discharge location. These discharges are approximately seven miles from the closest viable shellfish (hard clam) populations.

**4. Individual Sewage Treatment and Disposal Systems** - Individual sewage treatment and disposal systems are being replaced by municipal wastewater collection and treatment facilities. Several projects are currently underway near Sea Mountain Highway. Interviews with SCDHEC Bureau of Environmental Sanitation personnel indicate that portions of the Little River Neck are serviced by ISTD systems; however, soils are suitable for installation and systems should operate properly as long as they are properly maintained. Additionally, a large number of residences bordering the AIWW are also serviced by these systems. Northern portions of Area 01 which are not adjacent to shellfish waters contain numerous structures which are serviced by ISTD's. These areas ultimately drain to Area 01.

**5. Marinas** - Numerous marinas and multiple docking facilities are located along the AIWW portion of Area 01. These facilities provide over 1,100 slips and 360 feet of anchorage space for commercial and recreational watercraft. Several of these marinas provide sewer pump out facilities and fuel for recreational and commercial vessels (Figure 3, Table 5).

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

The shoreline survey and bacteriological data review of shellfish growing Area 01 indicated that the current classification boundary descriptions are appropriate. The following growing waters classification of Area 1 is recommended:

### **Prohibited:** (1146 acres)

- 1) All waters of the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway;
- 2) All waters of the Little River;
- 3) All waters of Calabash Creek;
- 4) All waters of Milliken Cove;
- 5) All waters of Little River Inlet north of the southeastern point of Little River Neck (Tilghman Point).

### **Restricted:** (2143 acres)

- 1) All waters of the Hog Inlet estuary;
- 2) All waters of Dunn Sound;
- 3) All waters of Little River Inlet, south and east of the southeastern point of Little River Neck (Tilghman Point).

**Conditionally Approved:** None.

**Approved:** None.

## REFERENCES

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**Table #1**

**Shellfish Management Area 01  
Water Quality Sampling Stations Description**

<u>Station</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Current Status</u>
01	Little River Jetty	Active
02	Mouth of Dunn Sound Creek	Active
05	Big bend up Dunn Sound Creek	Active
06	Bridge to Waites Island	Active
07	Hog Inlet	Active
17	42nd Avenue - Cherry Grove	Active
17A	53rd Avenue Bridge on Canal	Active
18	Dunn Sound at Hog Inlet	Active
19	53rd Avenue at Main Creek	Active
(Total 9)		



Figure 1.  
Shellfish Management Area 01  
Prior Classification

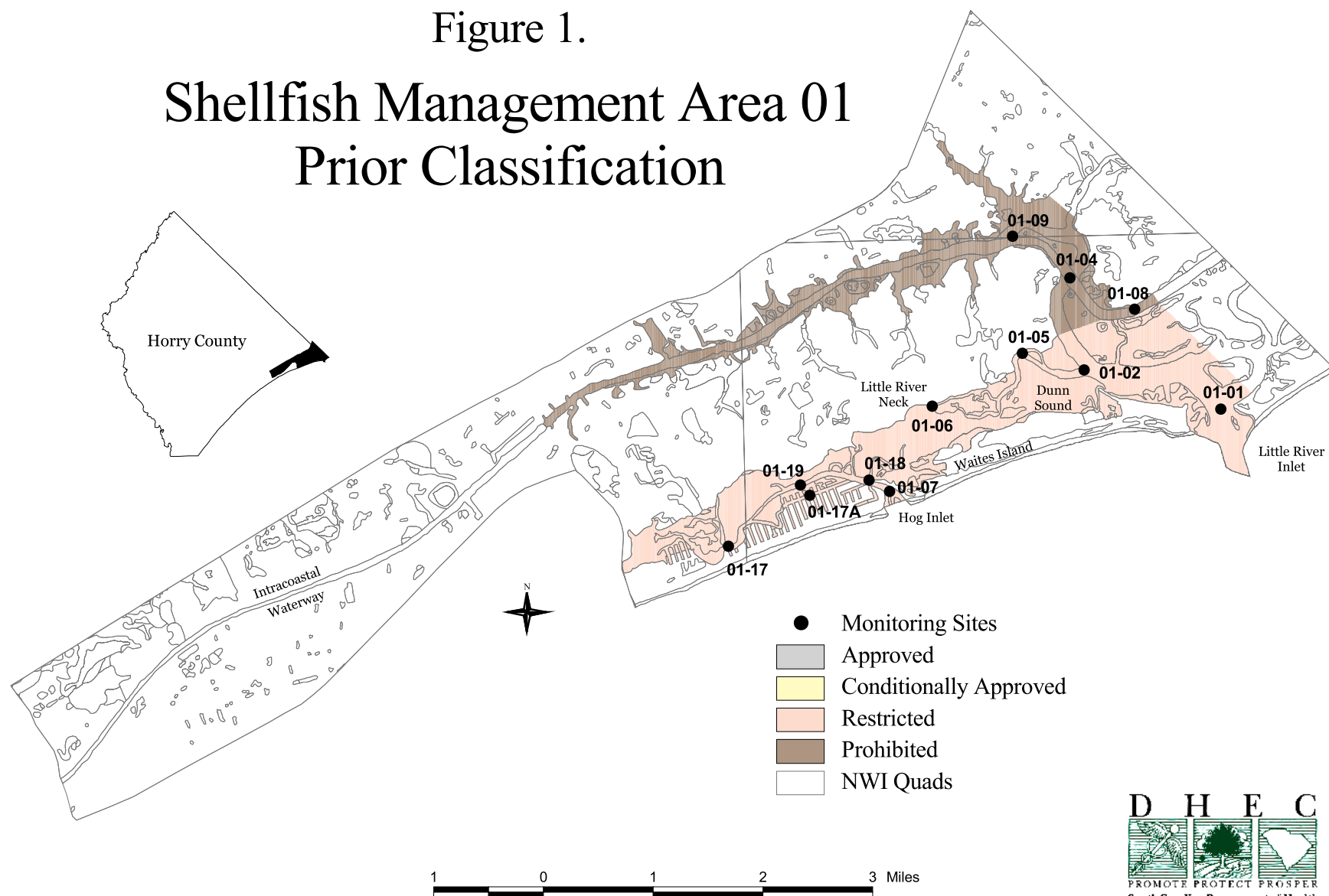


Figure 2.  
Shellfish Management Area 01  
Current Classification

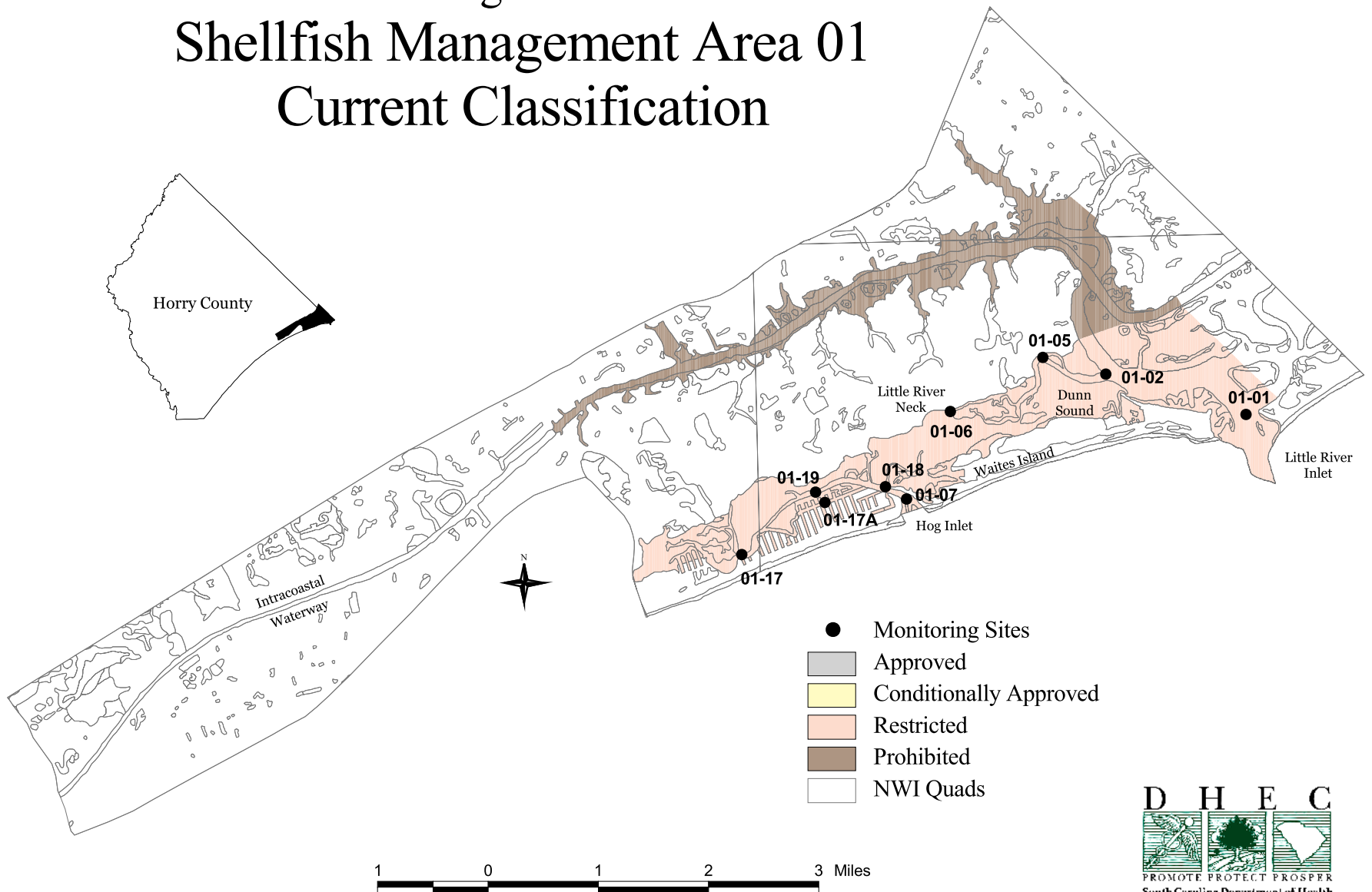
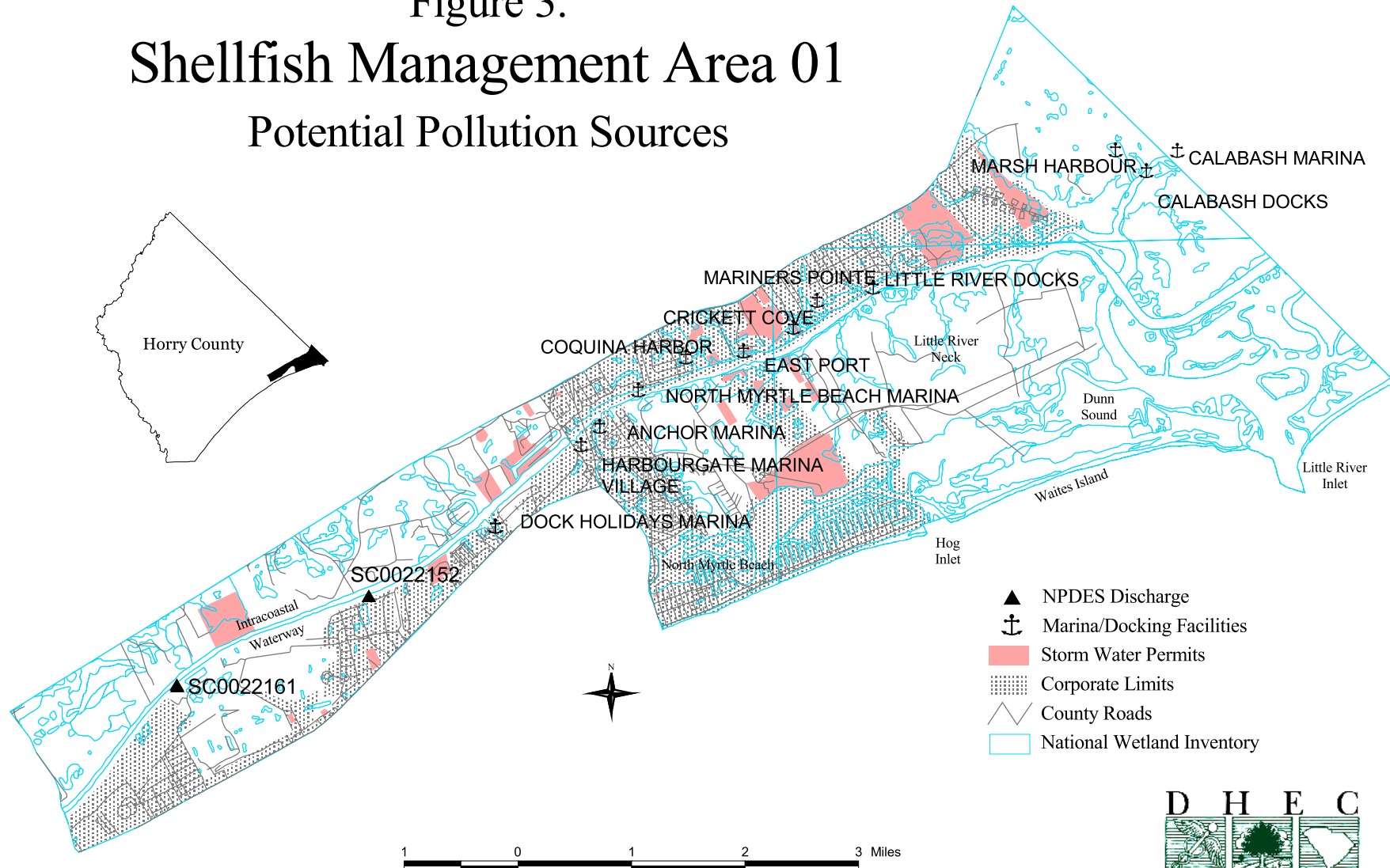


Figure 3.  
Shellfish Management Area 01  
Potential Pollution Sources



**Table #2**  
**Shellfish Management Area 01**  
***FECAL COLIFORM BACTERIOLOGICAL DATA SUMMARY***  
***from Shellfish Water Quality Sampling Stations between***

**January 01, 2003 through December 31, 2005**

Station # →	01	02	05	06	07	17	17A	18	19
<b>SAMPLES</b>	36	36	36	36	36	36	36	36	36
<b>GEOMEAN</b>	10.3	17.4	21.0	16.5	7.8	18.4	18.0	10.3	13.9
<b>90TH %ILE</b>	92	130	106	187	49	206	204	70	165
<b>WATERQLTY</b>	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
<b>CLASSIFICATION</b>	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R

Station #→									
<b>SAMPLES</b>									
<b>GEOMEAN</b>									
<b>90TH %ILE</b>									
<b>WATER QLTY</b>									
<b>CLASSIFICATION</b>									

Station #→									
<b>Samples</b>									
<b>GeoMean</b>									
<b>90th %ile</b>									
<b>Water Qlty</b>									
<b>Classification</b>									

**A** - Approved      **CA** - Conditionally Approved      **R** - Restricted  
**RND** - Restricted/No Depuration      **P** - Prohibited

**Table #3**

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## **WATER QUALITY SAMPLING STATION DATA**

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### **Shellfish Management Area 01**

Detailed data for each shellfish monitoring station listed in this report's "Fecal Coliform Bacteriological Data Summary Table" and in other shellfish reports, can be obtained by writing South Carolina's Department of Health and Environmental Control – Freedom of Information Office at the address below.

Freedom of Information  
SC Dept. of Health & Envir. Control  
2600 Bull Street  
Columbia, SC 29201

Any explanation or clarity needed on the report's content can be obtained by contacting the preparer(s), and/or reviewer(s) listed on the cover page.

**Table #4**

## **RAINFALL DATA**

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**Shellfish Management Area 01**

# AREA 01 ANNUAL TABLE OF DAILY RAINFALL DATA AND BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULTS FOR SELECTED STATIONS

*SOURCE: Dept. Operated Precipitation Data Logger (Waccamaw EQC - Cherry Grove Beach)*

<b>2003</b>	<b>JAN</b>	<b>FEB</b>	<b>MAR</b>	<b>APR</b>	<b>MAY</b>	<b>JUN</b>	<b>JUL</b>	<b>AUG</b>	<b>SEP</b>	<b>OCT</b>	<b>NOV</b>	<b>DEC</b>
<b>1st</b>	0.45	0.00	0.03	0.00	0.00	ND	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>2nd</b>	0.00	0.00	0.70	0.00	0.02	ND	0.19	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>3rd</b>	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	ND	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.00	0.06	0.00
<b>4th</b>	0.00	0.01	0.03	0.00	0.42	ND	0.00	<b>0.00</b>	0.22	0.00	0.26	0.45
<b>5th</b>	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	ND	0.00	0.00	0.30	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>6th</b>	0.00	0.14	0.45	0.00	0.14	ND	0.00	0.16	0.38	0.00	0.08	0.00
<b>7th</b>	0.00	0.42	0.79	1.28	0.00	ND	0.04	0.01	0.16	0.05	0.00	0.00
<b>8th</b>	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.53	0.00	ND	0.00	0.00	0.01	4.77	0.00	<b>0.00</b>
<b>9th</b>	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.23	0.00	ND	0.00	0.38	0.16	0.03	0.04	0.00
<b>10th</b>	0.00	0.07	<b>0.00</b>	0.81	0.00	ND	0.24	0.02	0.04	0.02	0.00	1.46
<b>11th</b>	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.00	ND	0.01	0.43	0.00	0.28	0.00	0.01
<b>12th</b>	0.00	<b>0.00</b>	0.00	0.00	0.00	ND	2.46	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>13th</b>	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	ND	0.01	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>14th</b>	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	ND	0.56	0.00	0.00	0.17	0.00	2.00
<b>15th</b>	0.00	0.00	0.61	0.00	0.26	ND	0.00	0.00	0.00	<b>0.00</b>	0.00	0.00
<b>16th</b>	0.00	0.34	0.07	<b>0.00</b>	0.01	2.07	0.00	0.05	<b>0.00</b>	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>17th</b>	0.00	0.09	0.31	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.08
<b>18th</b>	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	<b>0.09</b>	0.00	0.05	1.55	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>19th</b>	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.14	1.64	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.83	0.00
<b>20th</b>	0.00	0.00	3.19	0.45	<b>0.00</b>	0.82	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>21st</b>	0.01	0.00	0.26	0.00	0.00	0.00	<b>0.00</b>	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>22nd</b>	0.00	0.27	0.00	0.03	0.31	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>23rd</b>	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.40	0.00	0.76	0.28	0.40	0.00	0.00	0.17
<b>24th</b>	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.81	0.00	0.00	0.00	<b>0.00</b>	0.12
<b>25th</b>	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.36	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>26th</b>	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.06	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.52	0.00	0.00
<b>27th</b>	0.00	0.35	0.00	0.00	0.17	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.37	0.00	0.00
<b>28th</b>	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.44	0.04	0.00
<b>29th</b>	<b>0.00</b>		0.05	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.48	0.00	0.00
<b>30th</b>	0.03		0.17	0.00	ND	0.12	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>31st</b>	0.00		0.00				0.00	0.00		0.00		0.00

**(Monthly Figures)**

**Year's Rainfall Total: 49.80**

<b>SUM</b>	0.52	1.70	6.66	7.79	2.75	4.24	6.73	1.41	3.27	9.13	1.31	4.29
<b>MAX</b>	0.45	0.42	3.19	3.23	1.40	2.07	2.46	0.43	1.55	4.77	0.83	2.00
<b>MIN</b>	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>AVG</b>	0.02	0.06	0.21	0.26	0.09	0.28	0.22	0.05	0.11	0.29	0.04	0.14

"ND"/"--" = no data (Shaded/bold cells indicate the dates shellfish waters were sampled.)

# AREA 01 ANNUAL TABLE OF DAILY RAINFALL DATA AND BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULTS FOR SELECTED STATIONS

*SOURCE: Dept. Operated Precipitation Data Logger (Waccamaw EQC - Cherry Grove Beach)*

2004	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
1st	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.03	0.00	0.00	0.09	2.09	0.03	ND	0.00
2nd	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.86	0.00	1.51	0.77	0.95	0.00	ND	0.00
3rd	0.00	0.23	0.00	0.00	0.28	0.00	0.00	0.37	0.01	0.27	ND	0.00
4th	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.34	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	ND	0.00
5th	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.39	0.00	0.00	ND	0.00
6th	0.00	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.45	0.00	ND	0.00
7th	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	ND	0.00
8th	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.24	0.00	ND	0.00
9th	0.37	0.05	0.16	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.08	0.00	0.09	0.00	ND	0.19
10th	0.01	0.00	0.11	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	ND	0.09
11th	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.06	0.02	0.00	0.20	0.00	ND	0.00
12th	0.00	1.42	0.00	0.10	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.69	0.00	0.00	ND	0.00
13th	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.97	0.00	0.00	0.06	4.34	0.00	0.00	ND	0.00
14th	0.00	0.70	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.67	0.00	0.00	ND	0.00
15th	0.00	0.22	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.92	0.00	0.53	ND	0.00
16th	0.00	0.00	0.37	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	ND	0.00
17th	0.00	0.80	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.60	0.00	0.61	0.00	ND	0.00
18th	0.13	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.63	0.00	0.00	0.00	ND	0.01
19th	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.08	ND	0.01
20th	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	ND	0.01
21st	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
22nd	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.92	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.00
23rd	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.39	0.00
24th	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.14	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00
25th	0.13	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00
26th	1.98	1.52	0.00	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.10	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00
27th	0.02	1.21	0.00	0.69	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.57	0.53	0.00	0.65	0.00
28th	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.09	0.33	0.23	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.21	0.00
29th	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.03	1.04	0.24	3.67	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
30th	0.00		0.13	0.00	2.09	0.11	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
31st	0.00		0.25		0.00		0.07	0.18		0.00		0.00

(Monthly Figures)

Year's Rainfall Total: 47.96

SUM	2.64	6.20	1.02	1.79	6.38	2.02	4.51	15.69	5.19	0.93	1.28	0.31
MAX	1.98	1.52	0.37	0.97	2.09	1.04	1.63	4.34	2.09	0.53	0.65	0.19
MIN	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
AVG	0.09	0.21	0.03	0.06	0.21	0.07	0.15	0.51	0.17	0.03	0.14	0.01

"ND"/"--" = no data (Shaded/bold cells indicate the dates shellfish waters were sampled.)



# AREA 01 ANNUAL TABLE OF DAILY RAINFALL DATA AND BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULTS FOR SELECTED STATIONS

*SOURCE: Dept. Operated Precipitation Data Logger (Waccamaw EQC - Cherry Grove Beach)*

2005	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
1st	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.10	1.27	--	--	0.00	0.00	0.00	--
2nd	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.60	0.03	1.27	--		--	0.00	0.00	--
3rd	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	--	--	--	--	--	0.00	0.00
4th	0.00	0.91	0.00	0.00	--	--	--	--	--	--	0.00	--
5th	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	--	--	0.30	--	--	--	0.00	--
6th	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.60	--	0.00		--	--	0.00	--
7th	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	--			0.00	--	0.00	--
8th	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.72	0.01	0.00			--	--	--	--
9th	0.00	0.00	0.07	--	0.00	0.00	--		--	--	--	0.50
10th	0.00	0.26	0.00	--	0.00	0.00	--	0.95	--	--	--	0.50
11th	--	0.00	0.00	--	0.00	0.00	--	--	--	--	--	0.00
12th	0.02	0.00	0.00	--	0.00	0.00	--	--	0.00	--	--	0.00
13th	--	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.00	X--	X--	--	0.65	--	--	0.00
14th	--	0.00	0.00	--	0.00	0.00	--	1.95	2.40	--	--	0.20
15th	0.01	0.00	0.00	--	0.00	--	--	0.00	--	--	--	--
16th	0.00	0.00	0.09	0.03	0.00	0.00	--	0.01	--	--	--	0.00
17th	0.00	0.00	1.27	0.00	0.13	0.00	0.00	1.40	--	--	--	1.50
18th	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	--	0.00	0.00	--	--	--	0.00
19th	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	--	--	0.63	1.35	--	--	--
20th	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	--	--	--	--	0.00
21st	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.40	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	--	X--	--
22nd	--	0.57	--	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.62	0.00	--	--	--
23rd	--	0.00	0.72	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.11	0.00	--	--	--	0.00
24th	0.10	0.04	0.00	0.00	0.20	0.00	0.00	1.95	--	X--	--	0.00
25th	0.00	0.11	0.00	0.00	0.30	0.00	0.00	--	0.00	--	--	--
26th	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.49	0.00	--	--	--	--	0.15
27th	0.00	0.00	--	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.40	--	--	--	--
28th	0.00	0.03	2.10	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	--	--	--	--
29th	--		0.04	0.00	0.04	--	0.00	0.00	0.00	--	--	--
30th	0.50		0.00	0.00	0.00	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
31st	0.00		0.00		0.93					--	--	--

(Monthly Figures)

Year's Rainfall Total: 31.68

SUM	0.64	1.93	4.36	1.41	3.74	3.03	0.41	8.91	4.40	0.00	0.00	2.85
MAX	0.50	0.91	2.10	0.72	1.60	1.27	0.30	1.95	2.40	0.00	0.00	1.50
MIN	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
AVG	0.03	0.07	0.15	0.06	0.13	0.16	0.03	0.64	0.44	0.00	0.00	0.20

"ND"/"--" = no data (Shaded/bold cells indicate the dates shellfish waters were sampled.)

**Table #5**  
**Marina Facilities Within or Adjacent to Area 01**

Name	Primary Use	Number of Slips	Fuel (gal)	Fuel Type	Pump out	Status
Anchor Marina	Recreational	100 w/public ramp	12000	Gas/Diesel	Yes	Active
Calabash Docks (NC)	Recreational & Commercial	750 Lineal Feet	6000	Diesel	No	Active
Calabash Marina (NC)	Recreational	87 Dry + 100 Lineal Ft	None	None	No	Closed
Coquina Harbor	Recreational	520	15000	Gas/Diesel	Yes	Active
Crickett Cove	Recreational & Commercial	90 Wet, 350 Dry, Jet Ski & Pontoon Rentals	24000	Gas/Diesel	Yes	Active
Dock Holidays	Recreational & Commercial	97, Jet Ski & Pontoon Rentals	20000	Gas/Diesel	Yes	Active
East Port	Recreational	20 slips+200 lineal ft.	None	None	Yes	Active
Harbourgate Marina	Recreational & Commercial	93, Jet Ski & Pontoon Rentals	24000	Gas/Diesel	No	Active
Little River Docks	Recreational & Commercial	360 Lineal Ft.+11slips, Jet Ski & Pontoon Rentals, Casino Boats	11500	Gas/Diesel	No	Active
Mariner's Pointe	Recreational	116	None	None	Yes	Active
Marsh Harbour Yacht Club	Recreational	125	20010	Gas/Diesel	Yes	Closed
Silver Coast Marina (North Myrtle Beach)	Recreational	10 Wet, 200 Dry	2000	Gas	No	Active
Public Boat Ramps	Recreational	25 parking spaces	None		No	Active
Cherry Grove at 53 <sup>rd</sup> Av. N.	Recreational	32 Spaces	None		No	Active
ICW under bridges	Recreational	54 Spaces	None		No	Active
ICW under bridges	Recreational		None		No	Active
NMB at 2 <sup>nd</sup> Ave. N						
Designated Achorage in Calabash river	Recreational	0-15 Boats	None		No	Active
.						